

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Office Action Summary

Claims 1 through 31 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 14, 17, 20, 24 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 5,566,736 (Crider et al.). Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crider et al in view of US patent 5,123,474 (Smith '474). Claims 9-11 and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crider et al. in view of U.S. patent 6,070,642 (Douglas et al.). Claims 12-13 and 28-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S. C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crider et al. in view of U.S. patent 3,308,872 (Smith '872). Claims 15 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crider et al. in view of U.S. patent 4,079,772 (Klaenhammer et al.). Claims 2-3, 5-7, 18-19, and 21-23 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 16 is allowed. Applicant is unaware of any other rejections or objections pending in the application.

Amendments to the Claims

Independent Claim 1 and independent Claim 17 have been amended to include the limitations of objected to dependent Claim 2 and dependent Claim 18, respectively. Dependent Claim 2 and dependent Claim 18 have been canceled. Claim 3 and Claim 19 have been amended to correct the claim numbering dependency.

Rejection of Independent Claims 1 and Claim 18.

Applicant has incorporated the limitations directed to a decorative frame from dependent Claim 2 into independent Claim 1. Similarly, the limitations of dependent Claim 18 have been incorporated into independent Claim 17. These actions obviate the rejection of independent Claim 1 and independent Claim 17, in accordance with the Office action on the merits. Thus, independent Claim 1 and independent Claim 17 are in condition for allowance. Applicant notes, with appreciation that independent Claim 16 is allowed as originally filed. Thus, all of the pending independent claims are in condition for issuance.

Rejected Dependent Claims

Regarding the remaining Claims 3-15 and 19-31, all of these claims depend from either independent Claim 1 or independent Claim 17. It is well-settled law that since these dependent claims depend from allowable independent claims, then these dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

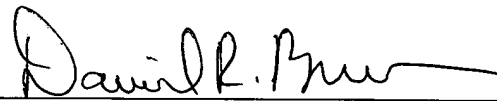
Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed October 1, 2004. The Applicant believes that the same places the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration by the Examiner and allowance of the claimed invention is hereby courteously solicited.

Since the total number of claims in the Application remains unchanged, it is Applicant's belief that all fees in the case have been previously paid. In the event that the Examiner determines otherwise, the that Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such additional fees, excluding the Issue Fee, or credit any overpayment to Daniel R. Brown Deposit Account No. 501507.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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